

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 5th January 1901.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Bengalee* of the 30th December 1900, in a leaderette on the alleged mobilization of Afghan troops, rumours of which are being so industriously disseminated by the Russian Press, finds no Government or Press to equal the Russian in the art of dissimulation. Were there any truth in the Amir's warlike intention with regard to India, the Russian Press would be the last to give England warning thereof. The article dismisses the Russian rumours as pure inventions, circulated with the object of dissuading England from assuming too pronounced an attitude of antagonism towards Russia in China, yet sees in the situation what may well make the long-suffering Indian tax-payer uneasy, viz., the prospect of a possible addition to his burden in costly projects of frontier fortification, etc., in view of Russia's suspicious attitude.

THE BENGALÉE,
30th Dec. 1900.

2. The *Indian Mirror* of December 30th publishes the following, anent the information acquired by Russian papers concerning the action of the Indian Government in respect to its position in, and dealings with, the Persian Gulf.

Russian papers concerning India and the Persian Gulf.

THE INDIAN MIRROR,
30th Dec. 1900.

"We fear we cannot afford to disregard wholly the information acquired by the Russian papers about the action of the Indian Government in respect of its position in, and dealings with, the Persian Gulf. The reader knows that Germany has, with the tacit permission of Turkey, acquired a coaling station somewhere in the Persian Gulf. France and Russia have also attempted to be "all out" in that direction. It appears that the Indian Government has made counter-moves, for, according to Reuter, the Russian papers comment resentfully on 'the high-handed procedure of the Indian Government in the alleged establishment of garrisons at Chakat and Chahbar, in the Province of Mekran, with a view to dominating the Gulf of Oman.' The information is new and very puzzling."

3. The *Indian Mirror* of the 30th ultimo, points out that the return of Lumsden's Horse does not by any means signify that the war is finished. It refers to the latest Parliamentary returns of the casualties in the war, and remarks upon the waste of life in search of gold. It asks whether the annexation of the South African Republics will ever repay the frightful cost in life and money.

The Boer war.

THE INDIAN MIRROR,
30th Dec. 1900.

4. The *Power and Guardian* of December 30th, considers De Wet is determined to envelop the whole of South Africa in a conflagration, by rousing martial spirit in the Dutch colonists in the Cape. It points out that the war can scarcely be called a guerilla one, in the true sense of the term. It asks if the South African war will continue through all time, and simply result in continuous friction between the Dutch and British in South Africa. The Boers seem to be determined to continue the campaign to the very end. It concludes by saying that the British cannot give up the war without impairing their prestige.

The Boer war.

THE POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
30th Dec. 1900

5. The *Power and Guardian* of December 30th, in an article on Chinese Affairs, considers that matters are now at a standstill. It points out that the Chinese Government would reduce China to a state of vassalage by accepting the terms proposed by the Powers, and that the attitude of America is pronouncedly opposed to some of the proposals made by those of the Powers, who have large trade interests in the country.

Affairs in China.

THE POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
30th Dec. 1900.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

6. The *Bengalee* of the 30th December 1900, again invites the attention of the authorities to the question of reorganising the Police Department, and of removing the "obnoxious" Arms Act from the Statute Book, or at least modifying it, so that gentlemen might easily get licenses for fire-arms. It is led to do so on account of the feeling of despair that has seized upon the people of almost every district in Bengal, owing to an increase in the number of dacoities. How, it asks, can the

Police reform.

THE BENGALÉE,
30th Dec. 1900.

Government expect to see the last of dacoities and gang-robberies so long as proper arrangements for the prompt detection of crime and the adequate protection of life and property are not made? It is of course very difficult for the police, manned and organised as it is, to cope with the increasing crime, and it is just this reason which has led this paper to persistently cry for the reorganisation of the department. Thanases with large jurisdictions are allotted a small number of constables, from whom it is impossible to expect efficient watch and ward. The village watch is simply worthless. Chaukidars, though in many places whole-time men, continue the practice of serving as day-labourers, as *paiks* in zamindari cutcherries, and as *krishans* or ploughmen. They naturally fall asleep at night, leaving the village to take care of itself as best it can.

The first reform the writer suggests should be in respect of the village watch. They are now under no sort of discipline, and that is why they cannot be made to work as they should. The weekly roll-call at the thana is a mere formality. It puts no sort of check on the action of the chaukidars. It is true that they are placed under the panchayat; but these panchayats, in most cases, are men who are themselves not above suspicion; men who practice *zulum* on the indigent village community, and are in some cases known to have embezzled Government money. The chaukidars are often men who are in the confidence, if not in the service of, the panchayats. Hence the latter are not to be depended upon to report the conduct or negligence of chaukidars.

The only way out of the difficulty, therefore, seems to the writer to lie in the breaking up of the jurisdictions of the existing thanas into outposts, so as to make it possible for the officers in charge of them to keep a more strict watch over the work of the chaukidars.

The writer would suggest that the village watch should be placed under some sort of discipline; and this cannot be done unless the jurisdiction of outposts and thanas is reduced, so as to admit of the regular police officers maintaining a strict supervision over the chaukidars. The system of duffadars is no doubt an improvement, but it does not come up to the required point. Let the panchayats remain as they are, let them assess and collect the chaukidari tax as they are now doing, but the appointment and dismissal of chaukidars should be in the hands of the regular police officers, who should be held responsible for the working of the village watch. It should be impressed upon the chaukidars that they are Government servants, who cannot serve any other master by day, as such service incapacitates them from discharging their legitimate duties properly at night. The duffadars should be duffadars in reality and should go the round of the village at night to see that their subordinate chaukidars are at their posts.

The writer then goes on to say that no objection should be raised to this reform on the score of impecuniosity. It does not entail additional cost, but insures better work on the part of the village watch, who, moreover, should be armed, to enable them on occasions to offer some sort of resistance.

Here then comes the necessity of granting a larger number of gun-licenses than now. But unfortunately District Magistrates, while they cannot devise any means to check violent crime, seem to be imbued with a feeling of danger to the Empire when they are called upon to grant gun-licenses. In this connection the writer quotes the letter of his Santipur correspondent. The letter runs as follows:—

"The daring dacoities at Krishnagar, Chogda, and Udaipur within a month have greatly alarmed the people of the proverbially peaceful district of Nadia. The Secretary of the Santipur Rate-payers' Association recently moved the Police and the Magistrate in this respect. In spite of a satisfactory patrolling arrangement just made at Santipur, there was a daring attempt at dacoity by a gang, armed with *daos*, in the house of a wealthy inhabitant, but the dacoits, after breaking open the main door, were repulsed by the *lathials* inside the house. A number of men, apparently belonging to the same gang, was seen in another quarter of the town, but the firing of a few blank cartridges scared them away. To meet the crisis it is urgently necessary that the wealthier inhabitants should be induced to have firearms for themselves, and the Police should not only have the town carefully watched during the night under the supervision of its officers but all suspected new-comers should be under strict surveillance."

7. The *Hindoo Patriot* of the 31st December, publishes the same account of the attempted dacoity at Santipur in the Nadia district, which appeared in the *Bengalee* of the 30th (*vide* preceding paragraph), and adds that there is a general sense of insecurity of life and property. The Government is requested to save the panic-stricken inhabitants of Santipur.

THE HINDOO PATRIOT,
31st Dec. 1900.

8. The *Bengalee* of the 1st January, commenting on the alleged outrage of a Hindu lady by some soldiers on the Serampore Railway Station platform, does not think that the way the police are investigating the case is the best way to arrive at the truth. It expresses the

THE BENGALIAN,
1st Jan. 1901.

Alleged outrage by soldiers on a native lady at the Serampore Railway Station platform.

hope that the guardians of the insulted girl will not be moved by any feeling of false pride or *ijjut*, but come forward boldly to prosecute the ruffians who would have disgraced him and dishonoured the girl, but for what many of those present on the platform regarded at the time as "divine intervention." There should be no pity in his heart for those who evidently had no pity for the poor helpless lady. Hearing that some of the witnesses of this dastardly scene have been trying to shirk their duty, it condemns their action as cowardly, and concludes by exhorting those present to tell the Magistrate what they know.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

9. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 3rd January, makes some remarks against the contemplated appointment of Mr. W. Franks, Bailiff of the Small Cause Court, to the post of Clerk of the Court, which has been vacated by Mr. L. de Niceville. Mr. Franks' fitness for this prize appointment is questioned and the hope is expressed that when his nomination goes up to Government for sanction, the matter will receive the consideration it deserves.

THE AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Jan. 1901.

Mr. Franks' appointment as Clerk of the Court.

(d)—Education.

10. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 31st December 1900, publishes a letter from Gorakhpur, over the initials "N.C.C." on the subject of 18 years being fixed as the age limit by the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Government for the Entrance Examination in those provinces. It disagrees with its correspondent's suggestion that the age limit should be abolished in the North-Western Provinces as it has been in Bengal, and advocates the reintroduction in Bengal of 16 years as the age limit, as was the rule two decades ago, and suggests the same age for schools and colleges in the North-Western Provinces.

THE AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
31st Dec. 1900.

Age limit for the Entrance Examination for Schools and Colleges in the North-Western Provinces.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

11. A correspondent to the *Hindoo Patriot* of December 31st, complains that the municipal authorities have stopped the flow of water from the stand-post in Protap Chander Chatterjee's lane, and by so doing have caused great inconvenience to the residents of that lane.

THE HINDOO
PATRIOT,
31st Dec. 1900.

Stoppage of water in Protap Chander Chatterjee's lane.

12. A Narayanganj correspondent to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 2nd January, points out that the influx of coolies during the jute season was answerable for the recent outbreak of cholera, which, according to official statistics, carried off nearly 450 souls from that small town.

THE AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
2nd Jan. 1901.

Cholera in Narayanganj.

13. The same correspondent complains that the condition of some of the tanks in the town is injurious to the health of those resorting to them, and invites the attention of the municipal authorities to their improvement.

THE AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
2nd Jan. 1901.

Unhealthy condition of certain tanks in Narayanganj.

THE AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
2nd Jan. 1901.

14. A Dacca correspondent to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 2nd January, brings to notice that some 50 to 60 deaths have taken place from cholera in villages Pranimandal, Matgaon and Rarkhat in one month, owing to want of pure drinking water. He hopes the District Board will take steps to remove this want, from which the villagers suffer severely during this period of the year.

THE POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
3rd Dec. 1900.

15. The *Power and Guardian* of December 30th, draws the attention of the Chairman of the Municipality to the kerosine lights in the suburbs, for which rate-payers have to pay. Not a single light is given the full force contracted for, and in many cases the quantity of oil used and the measured force given to the lights do not necessitate the putting out of lights at the fixed time. It asks for a Light Inspector to look after the contractors.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

THE HINDOO PATRIOT,
3rd Jan. 1901.

16. The *Hindoo Patriot* of 3rd January 1901, states that the people of India at large are under a debt of gratitude to the Viceroy for the interest he has evinced in the subject of Agricultural banks in India. The problem of agricultural indebtedness is one of great complexity and has engaged the attention of the British Government ever since the beginning of the century. In 1882 the Government of His Excellency Lord Wenlock deputed the Hon'ble Mr. Nicholson to enquire into the possibility of introducing land and agricultural banks in the Madras Presidency, and his report, which is in two bulky volumes, was submitted to Government so early as 1895. The Madras Board of Revenue, to whom it was referred for remarks, considered that Mr. Nicholson's proposals were impracticable, and after some years the Government of His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock issued, towards the end of last year, a *non-possumus* order. The writer is gratified to find that the matter has not ended here, and that Lord Curzon has taken up the question. It is understood that a Conference will meet about the middle of the current month to discuss the various schemes practicable.

(g)—Railways, communications, including canals and irrigation.

THE AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Jan. 1901.

17. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 3rd January 1901, informs its readers that in consequence of the sustained agitation carried on by Babu Lalit Mohan Ghosal, on behalf of the inhabitants of villages and townships near Dum-Dum, who suffered owing to the want of adequate waterways in the Bengal Central Railway embankment, Lord Stanley of Alderley will put a question in Parliament on the subject. It also mentions that a question will be asked in the Bengal Council to the same effect.

(h)—General.

THE INDIAN MIRROR,
3rd Jan. 1901.

18. The *Indian Mirror* of the 3rd January 1901 notices the fact that when a few European traders and merchants agitated for an enquiry into the working and management of the Calcutta Port Trust, the Bengal Government granted the enquiry prayed for. Now, however, although the entire "Native" Press and at least one English journal, *Capital*, has preferred serious allegations against the working of the Calcutta Income-tax office, the Government takes no action.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

THE BENGALIEE,
3rd Jan. 1901.

19. In view of the fact that the Viceroy will shortly select a gentleman representing mining interests to the Select Committee to consider the Indian Mines Bill No. II, the *Bengalee* of the 3rd January, suggests the names of the Hon'ble Baikanta Nath Sen, member of the Bengal Legislative Council, Babu Indra Nath Banerji, of the Burdwan Bar, and Kumar Dakhineswar Malia of Searsole, as being fit for appointment as additional members of the Select Committee. These gentlemen are all more or less directly connected with coal mining, and have had ample opportunity to study the industry in all its bearings.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

20. The *Hindoo Patriot* of the 3rd January 1901, learns from the weather and crop reports of Bengal that there was some rain during the week ending the 31st December, in almost all districts of the Burdwan, Bihar and Chota Nagpur Divisions, as well as in Nadia, Jossore, Darjeeling, Dacca, and Cuttack. The rain has been beneficial to the *rabi* crops in Bihar. More rain is, however, needed in Nadia and Cuttack. It is also badly wanted in Murshidabad, Pabna and Malda. The harvesting of winter rice is being completed. *Rabi* crops are generally in good condition, except in Murshidabad. In Bihar the poppy crop is doing well. The pressing of sugar-cane is in progress. Cattle-disease is reported from five districts. Fodder is generally sufficient. The price of common rice has fallen in 11 districts, risen in 14, and is stationary in the rest (21).

Weather and Crop reports of Bengal for week ending 31st December 1900.

THE HINDOO PATRIOT,
3rd Jan. 1901.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

21. The *Bengalee* of the 30th December 1900, records with deep regret the death of Rai Jogendra Chandra Mitter Bahadur, Superintendent of the Calcutta Police, Detective Department, which occurred on the 28th idem, and points to the late Rai Bahadur's rise in the service as an illustration that honesty, ability and devotion to work still lead to preferment and promotion in the Police Department.
22. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 31st December, has a similar article couched in warmer terms of the Rai Bahadur's career and death.
23. The *Bengalee* of the 30th December 1900, learns that a few members of Lumsden's Horse were allowed, owing to pressing business in India, to return at their own expense. This seems to the writer an ungenerous return for the sacrifice which these men endured, by separation from their friends and happy associations, and in many cases by giving up lucrative appointments, to go and fight for England's honour and glory. The least that could have been done for them was to give them a free passage back, but the treatment meted out to them accords with what some Army men, who were at the seat of the war, received when they returned home,—to either starve or find an asylum in the Poor-house.
24. The *Bengalee* of the 30th December 1900, continues its observations on the Commissioned ranks of the Indian Army, in which it attempted to show that the real cause of the great Sepoy Mutiny, lay not in the story of the greased cartridge, but in the discontent which was the legitimate result of the treatment received by the sepoys at the hands of Government and of its European officers. The causes which brought about that revolt are still present, and it would be unwise statesmanship, the editor, in his leading article, goes on to say, on the part of the rulers, to overlook them any longer. Although there are now no Kings of Delhi and Oudh, round whom cluster the memories of the past, and to whom the people owe traditional allegiance, as was the case at the time of the Sepoy Mutiny, the prevailing discontent is the "inevitable result of repression by Government of the legitimate aspirations of a whole people. No Indian can dream now of the re-establishment of a Mogul Empire, or a Maharatta Empire, which are to recall once more the glories of the Peacock Throne or the public Durbar at Agra. That was the old order of things, which has passed away. But in its place has come a new order of things—a new set of aspirations—which it behoves the Government to consider in all seriousness. The policy of distrust may very well be laid aside, in view of the new conditions that have sprung up. For what the people of India of to-day are most anxious for is to be recognised as British citizens, possessed of all the rights incidental to British citizenship. The

Death of Rai Jogendra Chandra Mitter Bahadur, Superintendent, Calcutta Police, Detective Department.

THE BENGALIEE,
30th Dec. 1900.

Death of Rai Jogendra Chandra Mitter Bahadur, Superintendent, Calcutta Police, Detective Department.

THE AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
31st Dec. 1900.

Return of some members of Lumsden's Horse from the war.

THE BENGALIEE,
30th Dec. 1900.

Commissioned ranks of the Indian Army.

THE BENGALIEE,
30th Dec. 1900.

pursuit of a policy of suspicion at the present day is, therefore, not only false statesmanship, but it betrays weakness on the part of our rulers. For suspicion is the legitimate outcome of fear. And fear, again, is the inevitable result of a consciousness of want of strength or weakness. The time, therefore, has now come when the Government may, with safety, depart from its traditional policy of distrust, and open out to the children of the soil the Commissioned ranks of the Army—open out to the ambition of the sepoy avenues to professional distinction, to professional fame, and thus bind him to the throne of the Great White Queen in bonds, which it would not be in the power of mortal man to unloose or break. Such an act would not only endear the Government to the sepoy, not only confirm his loyalty to his Sovereign, but will have the additional result of showing to the people of this country that the trust of the Government in their loyalty is not merely rhetorical, but something real and substantial. Such an act would go far to remove the galling sense of inferiority which is at the present moment rankling in their hearts, and which, to our mind, is responsible, in no small measure, for the discontent which there undoubtedly is in the land. Such an act, in short, will be one of those gracious acts of far-seeing statesmanship, which more than anything else will bind the people of India irrevocably to England."

THE INDIAN MIRROR,
30th Dec. 1900.

25. The *Indian Mirror* of the 30th December 1900, refers to the ovation given to Mr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak at the Congress on his appearing on the platform to support a resolution, and remarks that "Martyrs have their rewards after all."

THE INDIAN MIRROR,
30th Dec. 1900.

26. The *Indian Mirror* of 30th December 1900, has a leader upon the *Pioneer's* attitude towards the President's speech at the Congress. It says the *Pioneer* is irritated because Mr. Chandravarkar presented his facts in a quiet manner and without any embellishments, and because the truth of his statements has brought home economic questions to officialdom. It further states that the cause of the enhancements of land revenue being too high, is zeal to serve Government better than Government wishes itself to be served. That is why Settlement Officers assess land at an unconscionable figure, and that is why the mahalkaris and tax-gatherers during a famine advance money with one hand and take it away with another for arrears of revenue—as revealed in the official enquiry, which is now proceeding in Gujerat. It also refuses to subscribe to the *Pioneer's* assumption, that "these attempts to connect the occurrence of famine in India with the share of the produce of the land taken in the shape of land revenue, have so far been utter failures." This is the official story. But every non-official expert has long since been convinced of the contrary.

THE POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
30th Dec. 1900.

27. The *Power and Guardian* of 30th December 1900, publishes the following leaderette on the President's address at the Congress:—The inaugural address delivered on the opening of the 16th session of the Indian National Congress—the full text of which is published elsewhere—is undoubtedly full of interest for Indians at the present moment, a moment when India is just emerging from one of the greatest calamities that have ever befallen it. The President, Mr. Chandravarkar, chose for discussion one of the burning questions of the hour—the growing poverty of the Indian agriculturist. The facts set forth in the address speak for themselves, and any comments that might be made on them would be superfluous. In regard to the achievement of the Congress during the short period of its existence, he truly said that the movement has "outlived the stage of active opposition" and has "entered on the era of achievement when the Legislative Councils were expanded, and the Welby Commission was appointed, and now it has arrived at a period when more than ever it can justify its existence as the political conscience of the country." One of the greatest triumphs of the Congress, the President maintains, is the realisation of its unequivocal warnings. The roseate picture which the active opponents to the Congress used to present of the real condition of agriculturists has at last assumed a sombre colour. As an instance, the President cited the condition of the Guzerat people. It was erroneously supposed by the official hierarchy that the Guzerat agriculturists were most prosperous, but the last famine has dissipated that idea altogether, and the Guzerat agriculturists have suffered the most

during the last distress. The President referred to the calamity as owing to Providence being on the side of the Congress, for without the disclosure made during the famine, the assurance of the Congress would have gone unrealised. He acknowledged that the authorities have been fully cognisant of the growing poverty of the agriculturist and the Act which the Government of Bombay passed to save the Deccan agriculturist from the hands of the sowcar is an instance in point. But here the Government were careful to protect their own interests at the cost of the money-lender. One of the most sincere Revenue officers the Deccan has ever had, protested against the iniquity of the measure, inasmuch as, while the Government were free to realise their revenue at fixed periods, all obstacles were placed in the way of the money-lender when attempting to realise his money from his agricultural debtors. Be that as it may, the address is interesting for the details set forth, though one might expect a comprehensive speech worthy of the reputation both of the speaker and the movement. Disappointment might be felt in certain quarters, in view of the colourless address delivered; but, considering the short space of time given to the President for the preparation of his address, and the office that has now been conferred on him, a better address would be an impossibility.

28. *The Power and Guardian* of the 30th ultimo, calls the attention of Government to the prevalence of lotteries. They are increasing in the country, and many half-educated men from fictitious clubs post lottery tickets in the name of such clubs for the sole purpose of obtaining money.

THE POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
30th Dec. 1901.

29. *The Hindoo Patriot* publishes a leader on the President's address at the Congress, and points out that the Congress represents the popular opinion of the natives and has now come to the stage when it must be recognised as the "political conscience" of the country. It goes on to reflect upon the sarcastic attitude of the *Pioneer* towards the Congress, though admitting that the *Pioneer's* criticism was couched in a temperate and respectful tone.

THE HINDOO PATRIOT
31st Dec. 1900.

30. *The Hindoo Patriot* of the 31st December 1900, welcomes Lord Ampthill's arrival in Madras. Lord Ampthill, and hopes he will prove a worthy ruler of the Province. It points out that India is fortunate in the selection of its Imperial Ruler and Provincial Governors, and hopes that Lord Ampthill will "make a complete quorum with his colleagues with the same responsibility."

THE HINDOO PATRIOT,
30th Dec. 1900.

31. *The Bengalee* of the 1st January, publishes the Forecast for this year prepared by Babu Tarini Prosad Jyotishi. It is reproduced below in extenso:—

THE BENGALIEE,
1st Jan. 1901.

WAR.

(1) During the administration of Lord Salisbury, England will not evacuate South Africa.

(2) The Boers will in no way acknowledge the supremacy of England, and England will not easily give in.

(3) The interests of England will suffer in the Chinese imbroglio.

(4) Russia and her interests will predominate in China.

(5) There will be mutual dissensions between England and Russia with regard to the integrity of the Chinese Empire, while Germany and France will take opposite sides.

(6) Russia will not be able to enter India without having strengthened her outposts.

(7) Fortune will smile on Russia in China in this year.

(8) None of the Powers will be able to lay the axe at the root of the Chinese Empire.

(9) South Africa will become a huge scene, strewn over with corpses.

(10) Lord Kitchener will be harassed by secret enemies.

(11) Even Kruger's spirit will stalk over the fields of battle.

(12) The thirst of both England and France for war will be on the increase.

(13) There will appear unrest in south and west of the Suez Canal.

(14) There will be indications of war in Afghanistan and the north of Nepal.

(15) Immense loss of lives will take place in battles in the south-west of China.

(16) The Chinese situation will strike the note of mutual dissensions and war among the European Powers.

(17) It will be difficult to unravel the mysteries of the so-called sacrifices to be made by the Powers to preserve the integrity of China. The greed of China will make each lose itself over its own interests.

(18) Japan and China, America and Japan, France and Russia, Germany and England, will, respectively, act in concert in regard to the future course they should adopt in China.

(19) Turkey will act in the light of the future, leaving present affairs to take their own course.

(20) Peace in China will not be strengthened by the unanimity of the Powers.

(21) England and France, Russia and Germany, will, respectively, try to overawe each other by manifestation of force.

FOREIGN.

(22) The Liberal policy will not easily succeed in this year, on account of the warlike spirit pervading everywhere. Militant spirits will be abroad, and, maddened for war, will frown defiantly on the world, and "let slip the dogs of war."

(23) The South African War will never cease, until there is a change of Ministry in England, or unless England comes into collision with some other Power.

(24) In order to invite Germany to battle, France has been displaying enmity to her by joining Russia; otherwise France has no real intention of going to fight with England.

(25) There will be a revival of the Dreyfus case, with a change in the French Presidentship.

(26) Kruger has no hopes of help from Europe. His future is dark as the clouded moon.

(27) Holland will try to establish peace in Kruger's favour. No other country will use its influence one way or the other.

(28) Turkey will now remain everywhere inactive, her actions being guided by Russian movements. Her chief thought will be to watch over the movements of Russia, in order to preserve Moslem interests all over the world, and her future armaments will be promoted and directed accordingly.

(29) Germany, Italy and Austria will remain in concert in this year also.

(30) Even if Russia be successful in China, Germany will remain the ally of England, or it will not be easy for her to seize her prey near the lion's den, by throwing dust in the eyes of the elephant; nor will it be an easy task to get away with the skin of the Tibetan ox in possession of China, after having rescued it from the claws of the tiger.

(31) China will lose Tibet, which will submit to the yoke of Europe.

(32) The interests of England and Germany will partially triumph in China.

(33) Russia will gain secret sympathy in China and Tibet.

(34) There will be terrible bloodshed in the north-western regions of the globe.

(35) France and Russia will try to injure the interests of England and India.

(36) The Empress of India will, by virtue of her mighty power and resources, be invincible in the world.

(37) The Shah of Persia and the Czar of Russia stand in risk of death by accident.

(38) Some of the members of the Royal Family of England will suffer from indisposition and slight illnesses.

NATURE'S VISITATIONS.

(39) There will appear rebellion and unrest in Cabul.

(40) There will be a terrific storm, or other natural disturbance, in Italy and France.

(41) There will be loss of life, due to severe flood, or other natural calamities, in America and her coasts and the adjacent islands.

(42) In this year immense loss of life will take place in the south-west of England, north-east of France, west of Spain, west of the Mediterranean Sea, and Algeria, in Ashanti, in Africa, New Zealand, and the south-western corner of Japan.

INDIA.

(43) This is the third year of Lord Curzon's administration. Good luck, gain, travel, desire for victory in war, ambition and greatness, noble courage and humanity, pursuit of a somewhat illiberal policy, attempts at reform and introduction of a new policy, disfavour towards Bengalis, friendship with foreign lands, happiness from good health, good counsel, good consort and friendship, thought of authorship and fame, thoughts about other kingdoms, of success, anxiety about the east and north, the sea-coast, the Himalayan side and Nipal, thought of reforms in the south and east, absorption in the affairs of the Central Provinces and Western India, desire of introducing reforms in the administration, and legislative reforms, impartiality, attention to reforms in the Educational Department, desire of strengthening the British name and prestige, scientific facilities for easy locomotion, enjoyment of pleasures and amusements—these are the forecasts from the Viceroy's horoscope in the coming year.

(44) The conduct of the rulers of Bengal and other provinces will be marked by suavity of manners, and will be met with approval.

(45) The independent Native Princes of India will tread in the footsteps of the British Raj. Loyalty, readiness with offers of help and love of flattery, will mark their conduct.

(46) Among the allied and feudatory Native States of India, disorder will prevail in Bhurtpore, Patiala, Hyderabad, Baroda, Jhalawar, Tippera; energy and enterprise will be the marked feature in Gwalior, Jeypur, Indore, Udeypur, Bikanir, and Cooch Behar. Anxiety and expectancy will be visible in Nabha, Jhind, Karpurthala, Bhopal, Kashmir, and other north-western States; while among Mysore, Travancore, Manipur, Vizianagram and other southern and eastern States diseases, bereavement, and other calamities will befall the reigning Princes.

(47) Among most of the titled Rajas and Zamindars disunion, indebtedness, stintedness in charity, ambition, fondness for social invitations, blocks in the way of getting honours, paucity of "Kaisaris-i-Hind," fondness for pageantry, want of solvency in finance, and a lack of enterprise and good work will prevail.

(48) Persons whose names begin or end with the following letters will depart from the world: S, T, G, K, and one K. C. S. I., in a Feudatory State. The lives of those Rajas and Maharajas of Bengal and Bihar, whose names begin or end with D, S, J, L, R, will hang by a thread. In Calcutta there is fear of death to those notable persons whose names begin or end with D, S, C, N.

(49) In Calcutta, this year, more people will die of cholera, small-pox and invincible fever than plague. The bill of mortality by deaths from railway and other accidents will not be a light one.

(50) In this year, too, in some parts of India, there will be great loss of life, due to famine and plague. In Bengal and Calcutta springs and summer plague, in Bihar and the North-West, winter plague, and in Poona and the Deccan, autumn plague will more or less make its appearance, but the number of deaths will be smaller than in previous years.

(51) In the *Joistha* (May-June) and *Bhadra* (August-September) of the coming year there will be earthquake and flood. There is fear of both in the beginning and towards the end of the year.

(52) There will be a dust-storm and a terrific hail-storm.

(53) Travelling by land will be attended with risk and evil.

(54) In the north, east, and south-west of India there will be a fearful cyclone.

(55) There will be fear of fires and thefts will be rife.

(56) The treasury will be nearly deplete this year, and the Land Revenue will fall in arrears.

(57) In this year Municipal administration will be lax; the police will be inefficient, Judges will be overworked, and tradesmen will suffer from shortness of funds.

(58) The Bengali partisans of the National Congress will show fits of laxity and party-spirit, and their attention to it will be divided.

COMMERCE.

(59) America will have large business connections with India, and Indian commodities will be largely exported.

(60) The speculators in Calcutta will be left in the cold.

(61) Profits will be small in business, in stock and gunny-bags, none in opium and jute. Selling will be more profitable than buying.

(62) English commerce will be handicapped by German.

(63) The wine and silk trade of France will affect India.

(64) India will profit by her tea and coal, while indigo will suffer.

The native owners of horses will win the principal Cups in the Race this year.

THE AMRITA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
3rd Jan. 1901.

32. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 3rd January, in a leading article, attempts to explain the Viceroy's attitude towards the *Mahajana Sabha* of Madras. His Excellency's utterances on different occasions up to then had been characterized by openness, generosity and courtesy, and, while the Indians voted him a Messiah, sent to save their unhappy, over-administered and famine-stricken country, the *Pioneer*, the only organ of the Government which had never before opposed a reigning Viceroy, took occasion to savagely attack His Excellency. When Lord Curzon went to Madras, he found himself the object of *patronage*. Some praised him, others blamed him, while every one in India turned mentor and offered to guide him. The proud spirit of Lord Curzon could not brook this. Feeling that he not only knew, but would perform his duties without being influenced by praise, blame, or bullying, His Excellency was bound to show clearly that he knew what he was about, and was not likely to make statements from mere impulse of the heart. The snub given to the *Mahajana Sabha*, however, has given the death-blow to the *Pioneer's* attempt to create a party against His Excellency in order to coerce him as Lord Ripon was coerced by the *Englishman*.

THE AMRITA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
3rd Jan. 1901.

33. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 3rd January, in welcoming Lord Ampthill, the new Governor of Madras, takes occasion to remark that His Excellency does not enhance the glory of his country by saying that it conquered India by the sword. The writer contends that it was neither the sword, nor superior diplomacy which secured India for Englishmen, but they got it because the Indians made over their country to them. The reason why Englishmen, however, claim the credit of having won India by the sword is that they thereby relieve themselves from the responsibility of governing the country well. The article concludes with the remark that the Englishman who claims that India was won by the sword, only libels his own country, for by that he declares that England is a robber, pure and simple, whose chief credit lies in the possession of brute strength. If the sword had won India, what right have Englishmen to lay claim upon the loyalty of the Indians?

THE BENGALIEE,
3rd Jan. 1901.

34. The *Bengalee* of the 3rd January 1901, has an article on the remarks in the *Times of India* on the Presidential address delivered at the Lahore Congress, and assures its contemporary, and through it the Anglo-Indian world, that never was there a time when there was greater need for spontaneous unofficial criticism, and that the Congress can and will stimulate the critical faculty of the people. It is grateful to the *Times of India* for the kind and fair view

it has taken in respect of the great national movement which has survived many a slander and many an attack from Anglo-Indians—both official and unofficial.

35. The *Bengalee* of the 3rd January 1901, complains that Bengal as usual is conspicuous by her all but total exclusion from the New Year's Honours list. 'What words,' to quote the leaderette, "can avail aught to assuage the poignancy of the grief of those Rajas and Raja Bahadurs who had been so confidently looking forward to their impending elevation to the dignity of a Maharaja? How many sleepless nights have been spent—how many dinnerless days have been passed through, in that period of acute suspense which precedes the publication of the list? What humiliations have not been undergone, and what sacrifices have not been incurred? Hope deferred maketh the heart sick—and occasionally the body also. It is feared that the shock of disappointment may be too severe to some sensitive souls."

THE BENGALIAN,
3rd Jan. 1901.

36. The *Hindoo Patriot* of the 3rd January 1901, notices an interesting feature in the distribution of recent New Year's honours, viz., the appreciation shown by Government for special famine services, and is glad that the services of Babu Kali Nath Mitter as a Municipal Commissioner of Calcutta have been recognized.

THE HINDOO PATRIOT,
3rd Jan. 1901.

37. The *Indian Mirror* of the 3rd January 1901, defends the Presidential address at the Lahore Congress, delivered by Mr. Chandravarkar, from the attacks of the *Pioneer*, (which are characterized as somewhat churlish) and the *Bombay Gazette*, which under its new editor, is stigmatised as quite anti-Indian.

THE INDIAN MIRROR,
3rd Jan. 1901.

The leading article quotes some points on the speech itself on the subject of the recurrence of famines in increasing severity, and the decline of the peoples' staying power, and states that the only reason for this is the so-called Home Charges.

J. A. STEVENS,

Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
The 5th January 1901.

